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6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

8
9 David Allen,) No. CV-11-138-PHX-GMS
10 Plaintiff,)
11 vs.) **ORDER**
12)
13 Quest Online LLC, et. al.,)
14 Defendants.)
15 _____)

16 Pending before the Court are: 1) Plaintiff's Motion to Amend the Amended Complaint
17 (Doc. 197); 2) Plaintiff's Motion for Relief from Judgment (Doc. 200); 3) Plaintiff's Motion
18 for Recusal (Doc. 201); 4) Plaintiff's Motion to Compel/Strike Answer to amended
19 complaint and counterclaim (Doc. 204); 5) Plaintiff's Motion to Compel Proper Answers
20 (Doc. 205); 6) Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to File Motion to Dismiss Counterclaims (Doc.
21 207); 7) Plaintiff's Motion to Strike Counterclaims (Doc. 208); and 8) Plaintiff's Motion to
22 Strike Debtor's Exam and Related Interrogatories (Doc. 234). Also before the Court is the
23 Response by Plaintiff to this Court's Order that Plaintiff show cause why the Court should
24 not enter an order relieving Defendants from the obligation of responding to any motion or
25 filing filed by Plaintiff, unless the Court requested Defendants to file a response.

26 I. **Motion to Amend the Amended Complaint (Doc. 197).**

27 As has previously been explained to Plaintiff, in light of the Scheduling Order that has
28 been entered in this matter, amendment is allowed only if the good cause standard is

1 satisfied. *See Johnson v. Mammoth Recreation Centers, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 604 (9th Cir. 1992).
 2 “A court’s evaluation of good cause is not coextensive with an inquiry into the propriety of
 3 the amendment under . . . Rule 15.” *Id.* at 609. “Unlike Rule 15(a)’s liberal amendment
 4 policy which focuses on the bad faith of the party seeking to interpose an amendment and the
 5 prejudice to the opposing party, Rule 16(b)’s ‘good cause’ standard primarily considers the
 6 diligence of the party seeking the amendment.” *Id.* “[C]arelessness is not compatible with
 7 a finding of diligence and offers no reason for a grant of relief.” *Id.*, citing *Engleson v.*
 8 *Burlington, Northern R.R. Co.*, 972 F.2d 1038, 1043 (9th Cir. 1992). If the party seeking
 9 amendment “was not diligent, the inquiry should end.” *Id.*

10 In his motion to amend the complaint, which the Court treats as a motion to amend
 11 the Scheduling Order to allow amendment, Plaintiff offers no reason why, in an appropriate
 12 exercise of diligence, he could not have earlier made the corrections which he now seeks
 13 to make in the Proposed Second Amended Complaint. Therefore, leave to file the proposed
 14 amendment is denied.

15 **II. Motion for Relief from Judgment (Doc. 200).**

16 Plaintiff uses this motion to reassert his arguments on the merits of motions on which
 17 he has not prevailed. The motion does nothing to meet the threshold for vacating judgment
 18 set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60. The motion is therefore denied.

19 **III. Motion for Recusal (Doc. 201).**

20 This motion is also denied. The motion alleges that the judge’s rulings demonstrate
 21 that his impartiality might reasonably be questioned. Nevertheless, as the Supreme Court has
 22 indicated, “judicial rulings alone almost never constitute a valid basis for a bias or
 23 impartiality in and of themselves . . . they cannot possibly show reliance upon extrajudicial
 24 source.” *Liteky v. United States*, 510 U.S. 540, 545-55 (1994); see also *Hasbrouck v.*
 25 *Texaco, Inc.*, 842 F.2d 1034, 1045-46 (9th Cir. 1987) (“The bias must stem from an
 26 extrajudicial source and not be based solely on information gained in the course of the
 27 proceedings.”).

28 To the extent this Court has precluded Plaintiff from electronically filing, it has

merely implemented in an even handed way the requirements of LRCiv. 5.5(d), and as the Ninth Circuit has already ruled in *United States v. Studley*, 783 F.2d 934 (9th Cir. 1986) vague notions held by a litigant that the Court does not like him or her are insufficient grounds to require recusal; *see also Mayes v. Leipziger*, 729 F.2d 605, 607 (9th Cir. 1984) (“A judge’s previous adverse ruling alone is not sufficient bias” to warrant recusal.). Plaintiff’s Motion for Recusal is, therefore, denied

IV. Motion to Compel/Strike to Answer to Amended Complaint and Counterclaim (Doc. 204)

This motion is also denied. The Court rejects and has previously rejected the assertion that the *Twombly* and *Iqbal* standards apply to affirmative defenses. See, e.g., *J&J Sports Prods., Inc., v. Khachatrian*, No. Cv.-10-1567-GMW-PHS, 2011 WL 720049, at *1 n.1 (D. Ariz. Feb. 23, 2011). Therefore, Defendants have adequately stated the affirmative defenses set forth in their Answer, and Plaintiff’s motion is denied.

V. Motion to Compel Proper Answers (Doc. 205)

This motions is also denied. The Answer of the Defendants/Counterclaimants identified by Plaintiff in his motion “fairly respond to the substance of the allegation” contained in the Complaint. Therefore, Plaintiff’s Motion is denied.

VI. Motion for Leave to File Motion to Dismiss Counterclaims (Doc. 207)

This motion is granted. Plaintiff may file his motion to dismiss, subject to the requirements of this Order.

VII. Motion to Strike Counterclaims (Doc. 208)

This Motion is also denied. The allegations that Defendant seeks to have stricken are allegations that are or may be relevant to their claims or counterclaims. A dismissal of claims through a settlement agreement, does not result in the cancellation of facts that may be relevant to other claims that are not barred by the doctrine of issue or claim preclusion. To the extent that the Plaintiff believes that the claims based on the factual allegations are precluded, he may include this argument, together with the relevant legal authorities in his case dispositive motion.

1 **VIII. Motion to Strike Debtor's Exam and Related Interrogatories (Doc. 234)**

2 This motion is also denied. Plaintiff is subject to the jurisdiction of this Court and to
3 the applicable federal rules governing the collection of judgments.

4 **IX. Order To Show Cause**

5 This Court has reviewed the history of the extensive motions made by Plaintiff in the
6 course of this litigation. The Court notes again, as it has a number of times during the
7 litigation, that Plaintiff urges and reurges legal arguments that the Court has previously
8 reviewed, considered and denied. Although the Court has entered one sanction to curb this
9 behavior by Plaintiff, he has failed to curtail such conduct, and in fact, Plaintiff asserts that
10 he lacks the economic resources to pay any fine or attorneys' fees awards. Therefore, in
11 order to preserve Plaintiff's right to raise the legal arguments that he believes should be
12 addressed while at the same time limiting the cost to Defendants of repeatedly responding
13 to motions on which the Court has previously ruled and which are filed for purposes of
14 vexation, cost and delay, with the exception of the single summary judgment motion which
15 Plaintiff is authorized to file, Defendants need not respond to any further motions by
16 Plaintiff, unless the Court requests such a response.

17 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

- 18 1. Plaintiff's Motion to Amend the Amended Complaint (Doc. 197) is denied.
- 19 2. Plaintiff's Motion for Relief from Judgment (Doc. 200) is denied.
- 20 3. Plaintiff's Motion for Recusal (Doc. 201) is denied.
- 21 4. Plaintiff's Motion to Compel/Strike Answer to amended complaint and
22 counterclaim (Doc. 204) is denied.
- 23 5. Plaintiff's Motion to Compel Proper Answers (Doc. 205) is denied.
- 24 6. Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to File Motion to Dismiss Counterclaims (Doc.
25 207) is granted.
- 26 7. Plaintiff's Motion to Strike Counterclaims (Doc. 208) is denied.
- 27 8. Plaintiff's Motion to Strike Debtor's Exam and Related Interrogatories (Doc.
28 234) is denied.

9. Defendants' Motion for Rule 16 Conference (Doc. 215) is denied as moot.

DATED this 4th day of May, 2012.

A. Murray Snow
G. Murray Snow
United States District Judge